

**William Fairfax to George Washington, April 26, 1756,  
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.  
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**FROM WILLIAM FAIRFAX, ESQ.**

WMSBURG 26th April 1756.

DEAR SIR

I rec'd your Favor with the enclosd Estimate of your present Corp and proposd Regulation for 2000 Men to be formd into two Battalions. Those I have talkt with Seem to approve of the Scheme and wish it may be Effectd.<sup>1</sup> The Proceedings below Stairs<sup>2</sup> go on slowly notwithstanding on hearing of the many and repeated Invasions of our Enemys, They appear alarmd and are for imediate Dispatch, Yet a few Hours lull their Fears and all's well again. I hope You will receive this under the Escort and Convoy of our Cherokee and Nottoway Indians under the Care of Majr. Andw. Lewis When being joynd You and known abroad to be under Yr. Command will be a great Checque to the French and their Indians. In the Account given of Captn. John Mercer's Defeat, I suspect the Indians Who are Swift on Foot drew our unwary People by a pretended Flight into an Ambuscade. Our Agent Mr. Abercrombie writes, that the Lord Lowden<sup>3</sup> & his kinsman Colo. Abercrombie<sup>4</sup> were namd for the Comand of the Several Forces to be employd in No. America and three Regiments to be Embarqu'd with them, but their long tarrying gives too great an Advantage to the Enemy who are dayly projecting and doing Us manifold Mischiefs. No Advances in the Ho. of B. relating to Your's and Officer's Memorial—A long Sessions but little of Importance

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done. In the Genl. Court a Judgment is obtaind for your late Brother<sup>5</sup> agt. Keyes who on pressing Solicitation is allowd Six Months for Payment; also agt. Colo. Lomax who flatters himself with the Prospect of great Wealth from his Share of a Copper Mine given Him and Colo. Chiswell and Colo. Joshua Fry which has a Show of much rich Ore —

On the 27th last Night the Governor told me He was concernd that in your Letter to Him You should express great Uneasiness of Mind for not having every Thing as You wish, observing his own frequent Disappointments, And that his Endeavors has been to make your Situation easy. Accordingly yesterday P. M. issued his express Orders to the Lieuts. of the Countys of Fairfax, Prince Wm, Culpepper, Spotsylvania, Orange, Stafford & Caroline to send half their Militia to Joyn You forthwith, the Officers to consult with and have yr. Directions in what Manner Your Corps & They can best repel and drive away or humble the Savage Enemy. The Ho. of B. are pleasd with his Honor's Orders and depend on your Vigilance and Success. Your Endeavors in the Service and Defence of Your Country must redound to Your Honor, therefore pray don't let any unavoidable Interruptions Sicken your Mind in the Attempts You may pursue, Your good Health and Fortune is the Toast at every Table, Among the Romans Such a general Acclamation and public Regard shown to any of their Chicftains were always esteemd a high Honor and gratefully accepted —

Yr. Brother John is espoused to the late Miss Bushrod.<sup>6</sup> 500 Small Arms, 40 Brs. of Powder, Shott & Flints are orderd imediately to Fredricks'burg under the Care of Doctr. Walker who is also appointed Commissary to Supply the needful Provisions—We here hope when these Bodys of Militia & the Indians Joyn, You will be able to March agt. the Enemy if advisable —

All Your Friends Salute You, in which Gratulation and cordial Wishes for every Felicity that can reward a Soldier, None can exceed

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Dear Sir Yr. affect. Friend &c W. FAIRFAX.

1 Washington had submitted a plan for the disposal of the two thousand men by which he proposed to save the country five thousand and six pounds, sixteen shillings, and eight pence, claiming that they would be better appointed, and “established more after the British custom,” adding,. “And I humbly conceive, where we can pattern after our Mother country upon as easy terms as pursuing plans of our own, that we should at least pay that deference to her judgment and experience.”

2 The lower House of Assembly?

3 John Campbell, born, 1705; succeeded his father, Hugh, as fourth Earl of Loudoun, November, 1731; arrived in America, July, 1756; returned to England in 1757; Lieutenant-General in 1758; General in 1770; died, April 27, 1782.—BROCK.

4 James Abercrombie, of Glassaugh, was born in 1706. Sent to America in June, 1756, with the rank of Major-General, he held the chief command until the arrival of Loudoun, and resumed it on the return of the latter to England. Superseded by Amherst, he returned to England in 1759, and died, April 28, 1781.—BROCK.

5 Lawrence Washington.

6 Hence the name Bushrod Washington.